



NASULGC National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges

Cooperative Extension Section

Award for Excellence in Extension

Purpose

The Award for Excellence in Extension recognizes a select group of Cooperative Extension System educators who excel at Extension programming, make a positive impact on constituents served, and provide visionary leadership for the System. It is designed to focus national attention on the role of Extension - one that is fundamental to the lifelong education and development of residents in communities around the nation.

Definition of Excellence in Extension

The Award for Excellence in Extension is presented annually to an individual who has strived throughout his/her career to achieve the benchmarks reflective of excellence in Extension educational programming. These include, but are not limited to, demonstration of high impact of programs; visionary leadership and anticipation of emerging issues for clientele and the system; commitment to diversity; and integration of programs in partnerships with university colleagues and outside clientele. A successful award recipient should be recognized as a leader at his or her university and in the respective field of expertise. Awardees should demonstrate the ability to garner a sustained flow of resources for sustainable Extension programs, use innovative teaching methods and be recognized by peers and the communities served.

Honorees

Regional – An Extension educator selected from any of the five regions, as defined, deemed by the review panel to exhibit sustained and meritorious Extension programming, and who has maintained at least five concurrent years experience in Extension.

National – A recipient selected from the pool of potential regional award recipients, from any of the five regions, and deemed by the review panel to exhibit sustained, meritorious and exceptional Extension programming.

Cooperative Extension System regions, as defined for the purposes of this program are as follows:

1. 1890 Region
2. Northeast (CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT, WV, DC)
3. North Central (IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI)
4. Southern (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, PR, USVI)
5. Western (AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY, American Samoa, Guam, Micronesia, Northern Marianas)

A maximum of one \$5,000 national and five \$1,000 regional awards will be made annually. The review panel reserves the right to make less than the maximum number of awards in each of the award categories due to insufficient meritorious nominations.

Award Presentation

A plaque and cash award is presented by the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy Chair and USDA/Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) Administrator during the Awards Program at the NASULGC Annual Meeting.

Eligibility

Nominee must be an active Cooperative Extension System educator (state, regional and/or county) with a majority university appointment in Extension as of the nominee submission due date, and have responsibility for Extension programming for five concurrent years.

Nominations may be submitted by a nominee, supervisor, or peer. However, nominations must include endorsement by the nominee's supervisor(s), conveyed via signatures requested on the Information Cover Page, described below.

National award recipients are not eligible for renomination. Regional award recipients may only be renominated to receive a national award. Such renomination may occur no sooner than three years following receipt of the regional award. Current members of the ECOP are not eligible.

Basis for nomination

Nominations will be evaluated for outstanding accomplishments in achieving and sustaining excellence in Extension. The following should be incorporated into the justification of the nomination:

- Determine institutional and Extension educator/nominee eligibility from above.
- The nominee or another individual may prepare the nominations package.

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- A complete nomination package consists of the Nomination Cover Page, Information Page, the Personal Data Page and the other pages describing the basis for nomination, not to exceed six numbered pages.
- Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.
- Any material submitted in excess of the six page limit (CDs, videos, publications, etc.) will be discarded prior to review.
- Include one (1) copy of the nominee's Curriculum Vitae with your submission (in addition to the six page nomination package).

Nomination Package Guidelines – Only electronic submissions will be accepted. Use Times New Roman 12 point (or equivalent). The due date is August 1 each year. In 2006, send to Linda Kay Benning at lbenning@nasulgc.org with Excellence Award Nomination in the subject line.

Nominations Cover Page is one page that provides the name, title, address, phone number and email address of nominee; nomination submitted by (name, title, address, phone number and email address); and specific wording for award citation (30 words or less):

Information Page is one page containing the nominee's background information and approval for submission by the nominee's Dean and State Program Leader. For institutions with a different administrative structure, this form should be signed by two appropriate individuals having administrative oversight of the nominee.

Personal Data Page is one page containing the nominee's education and experience as well as a brief summary of recent Extension assignments.

Other information to be used against the evaluation criteria (below) can be included not exceeding the six page limit and electronic submission requirements.

Selection and Review Process

The NASULGC Cooperative Extension Section Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) and USDA/CSREES have asked the ECOP Personnel Subcommittee to solicit and manage the nominations for the award. The Personnel Subcommittee will appoint a review panel with approval of the chair of ECOP and the USDA/CSREES Administrator. The panel will be made up of two state Extension specialists, two county Extension educators, the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching (CARET) representative to ECOP and a member of the Personnel Subcommittee and a member from USDA/CSREES.

Nominees from each of the five regions will be evaluated by the above panel first in competition with others from within the same region. Extension educators deemed most meritorious in each of the five regions will then be placed in competition for the national award. ECOP Personnel Subcommittee recommends the Award recipient(s) to the ECOP

chair and CSREES Administrator who select the Awardee(s) prior to the NASULGC Annual Meeting held in November. Reviewers follow strict rules governing conflict of interest.

Evaluation Criteria	Weight
1. Demonstrated high impact of programs; anticipated and responded to critical public needs with solutions on critical issues. Enhanced the public good indicated by economic, social and environmental impact.	30%
2. Recognized excellence in one's field of expertise as demonstrated by sustained external funding, awards from professional societies, request for regional/state/national addresses and speaking engagements, publication of scholarly work in appropriate refereed journal articles.	20%
3. Demonstrated innovation in partnerships, funding, and educational program delivery.	15%
4. Demonstrated record of programmatic, university, community and CES leadership, as reflected in service to profession and university and CES organizations.	10%
5. Demonstrated conveyance of cultural sensitivity and appreciation for diversity.	10%
6. Ability to engage university colleagues in Extension programming.	10%
7. Endorsement by Administrator, Alumnus, and Colleague - The degree to which statements substantiate the nominee's excellence in and dedication to Extension. Include statements from: (a) the administrator of the college or department (b) a former program participant, and (c) a colleague.	5%